

# Better Homes and Centers



Michigan Department of  
Social Services

Partnerships

Issue 38

WINTER 1995

## PARTNERS FOR QUALITY CHILD CARE

*Margaret Crawley, Program Specialist  
Michigan 4C Association*

Partners are persons who are associated with others in some activity or common interest. Partners cooperate in a venture or challenge. Partnership implies a relationship in which each partner has equal status and certain independence but also implicit and formal obligations towards the others.

The challenge of developing a comprehensive child care system is significant and offers an exciting opportunity for partnership. Child care influences how children grow and develop, the stability and income of families, productivity in the work place and the economy of the state and the nation.

The care of children is a shared responsibility between parents, child care providers, the state and the community. In Michigan, there is real progress towards the development of strong partnerships to improve the availability, affordability and quality of child care.

**Partnerships between parents and providers are the foundation of quality child care.** When parents and providers work as equal partners, children benefit from child care that supports and extends primary parental care.

When asked what they want in a child care setting, parents often answer that they are looking for a place that is loving, warm, open, cheerful and positive. They want a provider who enjoys working with children and families and who is responsive to their children. They also want a child care setting that is safe where children have enjoyable experiences and activities that help them grow and learn.

Many child care providers choose their profession because they enjoy children and value authentic, long term relationships with families. They want to be viewed as professionals who are seriously committed to the care and education of children. They also want respect and compensation commensurate with the importance of this work.

When parents and providers are partners, mutual

*continued on Page 2*

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

In previous columns, I informed you that the Department of Social Services is in the process of reviewing the existing Child Day Care Center rules. I want to share with you an element of the process that we do not often take time to explain. The Child Care Organization statute (Public Acts 116) requires that as part of the process for rule development, an Ad Hoc Committee be formed to provide recommendations to the Department. This committee represents the partnership that needs to exist between the Department, child care providers and parents.

The committee must consist of no less than 12 members, with a majority of the membership being providers and parents. This balance offers a consumer's perspective from both viewpoints. While the providers on the committee cannot, in reality, represent Michigan's 4,000 child care centers, nor can the parents represent the 200,000 parents who use child care centers, it does give the Department a perspective different from that of a State agency.

The Ad Hoc Committee's discussions are lively and helpful. A variety of ideas and opinions are shared and discussed resulting in a balanced set of proposed rules. Future public hearings will allow for broader input into the proposed rules and will provide opportunities for additional community involvement.

### Editorial Staff

Judy Gaspar	Licensing Consultant
Tina Marks	Licensing Consultant
Sandra Settergren	Licensing Consultant
Lynn Smith	Licensing Consultant
Sue Young	Licensing Consultant
Carole Grates	Area Manager
Judy Levine	Area Manager
Sheila Linderman	Illustrator

## Partners for Quality Child Care

(continued from page 1)

respect and cooperation helps each to understand the perspective and needs of the other. Open communication and shared information fosters this respect and builds strong partnerships.

Formal policies that clearly define the responsibilities of both parents and providers also promote strong partnerships. Providers who respect parents have consistent, family friendly policies that clarify issues such as payments, times, holidays, health and discipline practices. Parents who respect providers abide by the policies, share information about their children and work to make the child care setting rich by visiting and sharing skills.

When mutually supportive and trusting partnerships exist, problems that arise can be openly discussed and more easily resolved.

**State and community partners bring resources that foster these strong relationships and help to ensure quality child care for children.** The level of support from the state and the community reflects the value that is placed on children.

The Division of Child Day Care Licensing, Michigan Department of Social Services (MDSS) has the responsibility to regulate child care settings. The purpose of regulation is to protect children and to mandate that positive services are provided. The licensing rules spell out requirements that ensure safe, healthy learning environments for children and provide the floor below which it is not legal to operate. Licensing consultants help providers to understand and implement these rules.

The Division of Child Day Care Licensing has responsibility for public education about licensing and the developmental needs of children in child care settings. Video tapes that describe the rules as they relate to health and safety, child growth and development and positive discipline and guidance are available for parents and providers to borrow through the local MDSS licensing offices or through the local Community Coordinated Child Care (4C) agencies. These video tapes can also be purchased from the Division of Child Day Care Licensing for approximately \$10.00 per video.

Michigan Department of Social Services is also responsible for payments to help eligible families purchase child care services. Information about the Unified Child Day Care Program is available from County Department of Social Services offices.

The Michigan Community Coordinated Child Care (4C) network is made up of a state office, Michigan

4C Association, and fifteen local/regional agencies. Funding for the Michigan 4C agencies comes from public and private sources and the 4C agencies exist in communities because of local community support. The 4C agencies support providers in their professional development through training, local conferences and information about nationally recognized credentials such as the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and accreditation through the National Association for Family Child Care. In addition, 4C agencies provide information to employers on ways in which they can support the child care system. To obtain the number of the 4C agency in your community, call the Michigan 4C Association at 1-800-950-4171.

**Professional organizations promote the professional development of members to improve the quality of services offered to children.** The Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MiAEOYC) sponsors a state conference each year providing information on a wide range of topics that impact the care and education of young children. Local affiliate groups of MiAEOYC exist in all areas of the state and offer workshops and conferences, usually in partnership with the 4C agencies and other early childhood professionals. For more information call the MiAEOYC office at 1-800-336-6424. The Michigan Family Child Care Providers' Alliance sponsors an annual statewide conference for family child care providers. Local family child care associations offer workshops and support groups at the local level. For more information on membership in the Alliance or on the Family Child Care Conference, call Nancy Kramer at 810-653-4289.

**Michigan Foundations are key partners.** The W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Frey Foundation and the Skillman Foundation join with Michigan Department of Social Services to fund the Michigan Child Care Futures Project, a public/private partnership for child care, administered by the Michigan 4C Association. Several Community Foundations and local businesses are also funders. The project addresses parents' needs for affordable, quality child care by recruiting, training and supporting child care providers.

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation and other Michigan foundations recently sponsored a conference designed to bring communities together as partners to develop increased child care resources. In addition, the Frey Foundation sponsored a series of hearings on child care in partnership with Michigan's Children, Michigan 4C Association, Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children and Michigan Head Start Association. These hearings provided an opportunity for community leaders and decision makers to hear the child care concerns of parents and providers.

## PARTNERS IN PROTECTION . . . A WINNING TEAM!

Bruce Brown, Licensing Consultant  
Kent County

The Division of Child Day Care Licensing is committed to the protection of children. However, this commitment requires that we work in partnership with parents, providers and the community—the “Partners in Protection” team. As I listened to Coach Pat Riley speak in Grand Rapids recently, I soon understood how he was able to lead the L. A. Lakers basketball team to an unprecedented four world championships in nine years. In laying out the ingredients for a winning team, he said that all of us are team players, whether we know it or not, and that “teamwork is the essence of life.”

Here are some key ideas on winning teams from Coach Riley, author of *The Winner Within*, and some thoughts on how we can use them to develop a winning “Partners in Protection” team.

**MISSION:** *“It is the first important step, it is the common goal of the team.”*

The mission of the “Partners in Protection” team is the protection and well-being of children in care. If all team members share this vision, it will be the first step in developing a winning team.

**PURPOSE:** *“It’s the purpose that is the compelling reason for our mission; it is why we do what we do.”*

Our purpose is based on understanding that children are vulnerable. Our responsibility to them is awesome. And the vulnerability of children in care is greater due to the temporary absence of their parents. Protection begins with prevention. The licensing rules give us the minimum standards. Protection comes from not only understanding what the rules are, but also understanding how they protect and benefit children. It is understanding that washed hands prevent serious disease, practiced fire drills save lives, and positive discipline teaches children to solve problems today and tomorrow.

**ATTITUDE:** *“It is the understanding that one person can make a difference.”*

Coach Riley says that the “attitude of significance” is one of the most important ideas that a team member can learn. It is understanding that what you do and say matters. The power of this idea, is based on understanding the need each has to be significant, to count to leave footprints. It is this attitude that defeats helplessness and hopelessness. It is this attitude of our “Partners in Protection” teammates that will truly make the difference in helping us accomplish our mission of protection.

**TEAMWORK:** *“It is each player knowing and playing his position devoted to helping each other succeed.”*

The small steps we take to help each other to do our jobs can have lasting results. It may be giving a suggestion, sharing information, providing training, or writing an article. Whatever it is, if it is motivated by our common mission and purpose, it can make a difference.

We must continually remind ourselves and each other of the needs of young children and work together to meet these needs. We know that children are our future, but more importantly, we are their present. We need to appreciate that how we care for them today will have a profound effect on how they care for themselves, their children, and us tomorrow.

As explained in the Director’s Corner, the process of reviewing and revising center rules has begun. Following the proposed revisions, public hearings will be held throughout the state. Providers, parents and the community are encouraged to participate in the rule making process. As a team, we share the responsibility for formulating rules that will provide for the protection of children.

“Winning through teamwork is understanding how to blend the talents and strengths of individuals into a force that is greater than the sum of its parts.” On the “Partners in Protection” team, we need to understand that each member, like players on a basketball team, has a position to play. To succeed in protecting children, all players—parents, providers, community and licensing staff—need to know their positions, play their positions, and help each other in the process.





## MORE THAN K-MART VS WAL-MART?

Sandra Settergren, Licensing Consultant  
Washtenaw/Livingston Counties

*"Day care home providers are just glorified babysitters." "Child care centers only warehouse children." "Anybody can run a day care home." "Children in centers never get the kind of love and attention they would get in a home setting!"*

Have you heard any of these statements before? Worse yet, have you made these statements? Do you believe they are true? We love to make gross generalizations and apply them to individual situations. Surely there are centers and homes that are not well run, but I find that most child care workers are trying to do an excellent job in a difficult field.

Is that home or center down the street just a competitor you'd like to run out of business or is the child care business different from Wal-Mart vs K-Mart? You get the same product at K-Mart or Wal-Mart even if the price is a little different. The child care service provided is a very different type of product. There are so many varied needs out there which are so much more important than the price of shampoo.

No child care facility can meet every child's needs. We need to be aware of the variety of child care programs in our neighborhoods. If you don't already belong, join a provider's group in your area. If there isn't one, start one. It's important for both home and center providers to talk to each other on a regular basis to gain an understanding of the strengths of each facility's program. You need to be willing to recognize when a child in your program would do better in a different setting. You can do that best when you have information about other facilities in your area. Even though you have openings, referring a parent to another facility whose program meets her child's needs is the very best thing that can be done for that child. Your referral is a sign that you have confidence in your own program and have taken the time to have an understanding of the other services available in your area.

It's important to be willing to share your ideas and concerns with other caregivers. Recently two center operators in Wayne County attended a DSS family day care home orientation session and shared their ideas and experiences with the applicants there. It was an interesting session for all. Experienced providers can serve as mentors for new providers producing a learning experience for both the new provider and the mentor.

Providers can function as partners with other providers in finding a child care facility which meets that individual child's needs. We can all learn from each other. However, before providers can do that, you have

to put aside your personal biases and preconceived notions to recognize the merits of other programs.

It doesn't matter whether the shampoo came from K-Mart or Wal-Mart. Either shampoo will clean your hair. But it does matter that children are in settings which meet their individual needs. This is a lot more important than clean hair. Although parents try to look for the best program for their child, providers need to recognize the fact that no one setting can be the best place for every child. Each child deserves to receive the kind of care and nurturing that will stay with him for the rest of his life.



### WOLF TRAP

Do you sometimes feel like you need to be an actor, dancer, musician or story teller to keep yourself and your program from getting stale? Professional help is available!

The Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through The Arts trains early childhood professionals in the use of performing arts techniques which help children learn basic academic concepts as well as life skills. The Institute employs professional actors, dancers, story-tellers and musicians to provide workshops, classroom residencies, parent involvement activities, field trips, and instructional materials.

Any one interested in workshops, residencies or keynote speakers through the Wolf Trap Program contact Todd Greenbaum at (810) 651-9653.



### UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

is accepting applications for a one year  
1995 Post-Masters Certificate Program:

#### WORK WITH AT-RISK/DISABLED INFANTS AND TODDLERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Designed for full time working persons who are advanced practitioners with a master's degree in social work, special education, early childhood education, psychology, nursing or related field. Combines training in mental health and family-focused approach.

The first workshop in the certificate series begins in March.

For information contact:  
Betsy Clubine at (313) 747-4281

## EARLY ON MICHIGAN

Sara Miller, Ed.D.  
Program Specialist

Early On is one of the most unique partnerships to benefit children in Michigan's history. The partners are the Michigan Departments of Education, Mental Health, Public Health and Social Services, along with private providers of services, agencies involved with personnel preparation and community leaders. Early On enhances the development of infants and toddlers with special needs by supporting their families. It reduces public costs by minimizing the need for special education and related services when these children reach school age. The Department of Education is the lead agency for administration, supervision, and monitoring of the program with the Departments of Mental Health, Public Health and Social Services.

**How it works** – Bob is a 7-month-old who goes to the parent co-op daily with his mother, Darleen. She has been a little worried lately. Other babies crawl and pull themselves into standing positions, but Bob still doesn't sit up.

Darleen tells Lisa, the center director, about her concerns. Lisa doesn't know whether Bob's development is typical or delayed, but she's heard about a service system that helps parents who are concerned about their child's development. She suggests dialing **1-800-Early On**.

If you work in a child care center or are a parent of a child with a special need, this vignette may sound familiar. Early On Michigan (or Early On) is an early intervention system for families who have infants and toddlers with disabilities.

**Eligibility** – Early On has no income criteria. It is for any child from birth to three who meets the eligibility criteria of

1. a diagnosed physical or mental condition with a high probability of a resulting developmental delay, such as Down syndrome, or
2. a developmental delay at any of these areas:
  - cognitive development
  - physical development (including vision and hearing)
  - gross and fine motor development
  - communication development
  - social/emotional development
  - adaptive development

Even if you only feel that something doesn't seem quite right about a child, it is worthwhile to check it out. There will be someone in the Early On system that can help make an assessment.

**How to learn more** – You can learn more about Early On by calling **1-800-Early On** (voice and t.d.d.) or writing to Early On/Michigan 4C Association; 2875 Northwind, Suite 200; E. Lansing, MI 48823. You will be given the name, address, and telephone number of the Part H (Early On) coordinator for your county. Information is also available about state and national agencies and organizations who service families with infants and toddlers with special needs.

Please tell others about Early On. Even if you are unsure whether or not your infant or toddler has a special need, it does not hurt to check it out. The earlier this is done, the better it will be for both the child and the family.

*Excerpted from Choices, Summer 1994.*



## PARTNERSHIPS IN SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE

Pat MacIsaac, Coordinator  
Early Childhood Programs  
Wayne County

*The transition from school to care program has been made and children are making their play choices. The principal has gone home; there is no teacher in the room next door. It's only 4:00 o'clock and you are the adult in charge of the children and have two more hours to go. The feeling of isolation, of loneliness sets in.*

*"No one appreciates the situations I face. I need support!" This is the common lament of the school-age child care provider. What can you do?*

Networking is the answer. Forming a county or district group of school-age care providers offers a solution to the isolation problem. Some counties already have such councils or coalitions in place. The people in these groups have faced the same issues and questions as you. They understand and will be ready to listen and to problem solve. They meet regularly and frequently offer inexpensive training or enrichment workshops. They recognize and appreciate people who are committed to the school-age care profession. Many times these groups are facilitated by the Intermediate School District or the Regional Educational Service Agency.

Linking up with others will provide the support system you need to withstand the frustrations and loneliness of the school-age care provider's day. Partnerships can lead to both personal and professional growth. Your public school should be able to give you a number for your intermediate school. Your DSS Licensing Consultant can put you in touch with other school-age providers in your area. You might also try:

Michigan School-Age Child Care Association  
Pat MacIsaac, Coordinator of Early Childhood Programs  
Northville Public Schools, Northville, MI 48167  
1-800-344-8465

Michigan Child Care Coordinating Council  
1-800-950-4171

Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children  
1-800-336-6424

Wellesley School-Age Child Care Project  
1 (617) 283-2500

Take the leadership challenge and give someone a call!

## JOINING FORCES

Carole Grates, Area Manager  
Genesee County

Joining forces to strengthen the circle of caring communities—This partnership in action may exist in your very own community! What is it? How can you participate?

Several months ago communities in Michigan were asked to develop teams of citizens that would look at their community's child care needs. They were invited to submit a proposal to the Kellogg Foundation that would suggest a plan of action to address these needs. Twenty-eight teams were then invited to attend two days of training on the issues in child care and on building coalitions. Team members were supposed to represent business, foundations, parents, providers, local DSS officials, and local government officials.

The teams are now back in their communities and are supposed to begin the process of addressing child care issues. And this is where you come in! Many communities did not have a team. Some teams did not have child care provider expertise well represented. Find out if your community has a team by calling your local 4-C office or the Michigan 4-C office in Lansing. If there is one, offer your support and expertise in determining the issues where you live. If there is no team, explore the idea of starting your own community team.

These teams are studying the availability, accessibility, and quality of child care locally. They are working on developing initiatives that meet local needs. For example, in Genesee County the team is planning to start with home and center provider focus groups, parent focus groups, and community focus groups who will help the team to identify the issues from many perspectives. Does there need to be more business support? Are parents able to access the kind of care they need? What kinds of support would help providers to improve the quality of care? How does the community view child care and how can we better inform them of the issues?

You are needed in your community. Child care is a concern of all of us whether parent, provider, business person or citizen-at-large. As providers you need to identify the concern for others and begin to develop strategies that will assure all children receive the quality care they need; that all parents have access to the kind of care they need; and that all providers feel supported in the kind of care they offer. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us and I hope you will be able to become a part of the exciting process where you live. It is only through community partnerships like this that we will be able to assure that all children will have the best care possible.

## LICENSING—BEYOND REGULATION

*Carolyn Price, Licensing Consultant  
Wayne County*

When you hear "Day Care Licensing Consultant", what do you think? Police, enforcer, that dreaded inspection visit, paperwork, stress, white-glove test, "The State", complaints, "show time", headaches . . . or do you think information, crises intervention, learning experience, resources, team effort, honest exchange of ideas. Hopefully, your thoughts were of positive experiences which emphasized the role of the consultant beyond regulatory requirements.

Recently, I visited a center to do an interim visit. The principal and preschool teacher described the behavior of a specific child and asked for suggestions on how to work with the parent and the child. The parent was in the preschool that day for observation purposes. She asked for alternative methods which could be used to aid in the adjustment of her child to this center environment. I talked with all parties on an individual basis. As follow-up with the center, I sent technical assistance materials and asked them to provide the parent with copies. All parties were informed they could call if additional assistance was needed at any time.

Not long after this, I conducted a 90 day visit at the home of a new registrant who had not yet begun to care for children. The home visit was never completed. As I talked with her, she brought up many personal problems—health, marital separation, empty-nest syndrome, dissatisfaction with current job and financial difficulties—all of which impacted on her decision to become registered. At this time, she was emotionally and financially unable to care for children and elected to close. I suggested resources to aid her in making positive transitions in her life.

Licensing Consultants often become technical advisors regarding management and policy issues for homes and centers. These issues surface because of concerns raised by parents or staff. Parents may complain about policy or financial matters; staff may complain about management style. For example, a parent called to complain about a change in contract which was to take effect in three months. He did not agree with the change in policy. This policy did not violate any licensing rules but it could possibly encourage parents to seek out another day care plan because of limited financial resources. Consultation was given to the provider as well as the parent to help resolve the policy issue and provide continuity of care for the children.

Most licensing functions involve original licensing studies, renewals, complaints, and interim visits. However, our role goes well beyond those requirements. We have many resources and technical assistance

materials available on a variety of subjects. These subjects include room arrangements, equipment, discipline techniques, handwashing procedures, school age programming, developmental programming, outdoor play, nutrition, policies and management techniques. Video tapes are also available for loan or purchase on a variety of topics.

The mutual goal of this partnership between consultant and licensee is for quality care for children.

### PARTNERS IN PROTECTION LICENSING INITIATIVES

Video series	Speakers' Bureau
Better Homes and Centers	Staff Training
Orientations—Home and Centers	Pamphlets
Conference Presentations	On Site Consultation
Technical Assistance	Rules Development
Freedom of Information Act	Cooperation With 4-C
Help Us Help You Campaign	Protective Services
Campaign for Immunizations	Serve on Local Boards

These are services for you—**FREE OF CHARGE!**  
Just call your Licensing Consultant.





## PROVIDERS, PARENTS AND CHILDREN: PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTINGS

Jean Garratt, Director LESA Head Start  
Livingston County

"Parents are children's first nurturers, socializers and educators." (Berger, *Parents as Partners in Education*, 1991)

As child care providers in centers and family day care homes, we share the role of nurturer, socializer and educator with parents. There is a growing recognition that because we share these roles, it is important to support each other in our efforts to provide foundations for maximum growth and development of each child.

Sharing roles begins with communication between the provider and parents which is necessary for each to understand the needs of the individual child. This link is established with the first phone call or visit. Both the parents and providers gather information to make decisions about enrollment. Once the enrollment process is complete and the child begins, other means of sharing information are set up. For example:

- Phone calls
- Notes to the parent
- Communication boards
- Lesson plans or activity sheets
- Record of activities
- Newsletters
- Daily journals for parents of infants and toddlers
- Handbooks
- Home visits
- Parent conferences
- Open house activities
- Special events
- An open-door policy for visiting

### MICHIGAN FAMILY DAY CARE CONFERENCE

May 19-21, 1995  
Plaza Hotel, Southfield

For more information call:  
1-800-968-2281



Another way to share roles is through parent involvement in the early childhood environment. There are different degrees of involvement, based on past experiences and efforts to balance demands placed on the family. There are parents who avoid involvement like the plague and those who need encouragement to become involved. Then there are parents who readily respond to requests and invitations and are truly comfortable and enjoy involvement. Some parents truly enjoy power and are overly active.

There are many ways for parents to become involved:

- Volunteering in the classroom
- Participating in field trips
- Planning special activities in the classroom
- Serving on the board
- Volunteering in the office
- Making telephone calls
- Participating in special projects—building, planting, painting
- Attending school programs or workshops
- Making snacks for special events
- Making materials for classroom use
- Exchanging child care so parents can work in classrooms
- Assisting with transportation and attending parent support groups/networks

Involving parents is a way to assure continuity between home and the early childhood environment.



## MICHIGAN'S CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

Peg Pawelek Brown, CACFP Coordinator  
Department of Education

There are many partners in the care of young children. As a nutritional partner, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides cash reimbursement for nutritious meals and snacks for children attending child care centers and homes.

Information about the Child and Adult Care Food Program may be obtained by contacting:

Ms. Peg Pawelek Brown, CACFP Coordinator, or  
Ms. Rosemary Suardini, CACFP Consultant  
Michigan Department of Education  
Child and Adult Care Food Program  
P.O. box 30008  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
(517) 373-7391

### COMMITMENT TO IMMUNIZATIONS

*Ted deWolf, Director*

Child care center rules require that all children in centers be immunized according to public health requirements. Family and group homes are required to obtain a signed statement from parents regarding their children's immunization status. Providers must notify parents of children in care when their own child is not fully immunized. In order for the Department of Public Health to keep track and follow-up on children who have not met the State's statutory requirements for immunizations/boosters, *all family and group day care home caregivers are asked to report to their local Department of Public Health all enrolled children who have not begun immunizations or completed them. This is to be done on an ongoing basis.* This will afford local department's of public health to do follow-up and assist families in improving the health opportunities for their children.

## Partners for Quality Child Care

*(continued from page 2)*

Mervyn's/Dayton Hudson Foundation and Target support the Child Care Aware Campaign that sends messages to parents to become informed consumers of child care through media announcements and brochures. The message tells parents that: "by choosing child care now, you give your child a head start on a strong mind, body and spirit. Take your time in choosing child care and ask plenty of questions."

Major child advocacy efforts are also focusing on child care. *Kids Count* in Michigan, published by the Michigan League for Human Services, Michigan's Children and Michigan State University, brings the need for expanded and improved child care services to state and national attention. *The Children's Agenda*, a publication of the Michigan Coalition of Children and Families, advocates for increased support for child care payments, child care licensing and training in the Michigan budget process.

As active partners, we need to understand and support the role of others who are working with us to improve the child care system. The sum of our efforts is greater than the parts. Together we can make a difference for children.

### MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION FOR INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

Annual Conference  
April 30th, May 1st & 2nd

Keynote Speaker: Daniel Stern, M.D.  
Charles Zeanah, Jr., M.D.  
Joan Abbey, M.S.W.

For More Information Contact:  
Sheryl Pulley  
(517) 631-6221

### MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF COOPERATIVE NURSERIES

Annual Conference  
April 21st & 22nd, 1995  
Kellogg Center - Michigan State University

Keynote Speaker: Bev Bos

For More Information Contact:  
Sheryl Pulley  
(517) 631-6221

## RESOURCES - PARTNERSHIPS

*A Parent's Guide to Early Childhood Education* - Diane Tristes Dodge & Joanna Phinney,  
Redleaf Press  
1-800-423-8309

*Familiar & Early Childhood Programs* - D. R. Powell,  
NAEYC  
1-800-424-2460

*Growing Teachers: Partnerships in Staff Development* -  
Elizabeth Jones, Editor  
NAEYC

*Nobody's Perfect* - Nancy B. Miller,  
Redleaf Press.

*Parent's Involvement in Early Education* - A. S. Honig,  
NAEYC.

*Partnership with Parents* - Video,  
NAEYC.

*Six Stages of Parenthood* - Ellen Golinsery,  
Redleaf Press

*Teacher - Parent Relationships* - S. G. Stone,  
NAEYC

*The Preschool Years* - Ellen Golinsery & Judy David,  
Redleaf Press.

*The Sleep Books for Tired Parents: Help for Solving  
Children's Sleep Problems* - Rebecca Huntley,  
Redleaf Press.

## EARLY ON

Several publications about Early On are available at no cost. To receive any of them, call 1-800 Early On.

Part H of IDEA: *Early On: Michigan Family Guidebook to Early Intervention Services*.

This 28-page booklet provides general information about Early On Michigan in easy to understand language. Also available in Spanish and Arabic.

*Early On Michigan: A newsletter addressing Part H of IDEA*

Published quarterly and distributed statewide, this newsletter provides general information about Early On Michigan to providers and parents.

*Early On Brochure*

This is a brief description of the Early On Michigan program. The back panel has sections in eight different languages telling non-English speaking persons how to get in touch with the program.

State of Michigan: P.L. 102-119, part H, *Interagency Agreement for Eligible Infants and Toddlers and Their Families*

This is the interagency agreement signed on February 22, 1993 by the directors of the Michigan Departments of Education, Mental Health, Public Health and Social Services.

*Early On, Procedural Safeguards Guidebook, Part H of IDEA*

A description of your Family's rights to privacy and your legal protection.

## HELP US HELP YOU

Ted deWolf, Director  
Division of Child Day Care Licensing

While the Division has a responsibility to regulate child care facilities, our goal is also to be seen as a resource for child care providers to help improve child care programs in this state. We strive to create and maintain an atmosphere for consultation within the context of regulation.

In the middle of July, we mailed 18,000 "Help Us Help You" cards to providers. The cards asked some basic questions about services of the Division. More than 3,000 of the cards have been returned. I have reviewed these cards and am appreciative of the fine response we have received. Over 97% of the providers who returned the cards indicated their contact with the Division was positive.

Overall, people viewed consultants as being helpful and courteous. They liked it when consultants complemented them on the positive elements of their programs, instead of simply citing them for rule noncompliance. Many expressed anxiety in anticipation of the visit, but appreciated it when the consultant appeared friendly and did not attempt to intimidate them. Others expressed appreciation for the support and assistance consultants have given them. Esther Nardin of the Fairview Christian Early Learning Center wrote, "I used to resent our visits from consultants until we had a parent sue us. Because we had followed the rules and suggestions of Social Services and because our consultant had done her job so thoroughly, nothing came of the law suit. I now know when we are told to correct something it is only to protect us and the children."

## MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD™ 1995

Michele Kimmel - Fors  
MOYC Chairperson

Each April, Michigan celebrates the Month of the Young Child (MOYC) to highlight the needs and rights of young children and their families. MOYC aims for a better today and a more promising tomorrow for children, recognizing that children have small voices in our society and need adults to act on their behalf.

The Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children works in partnership with over 40 primary sponsors including a coalition of Michigan public and private agencies, organizations and corporations. Child advocates across the State are invited to join the sponsors in promoting and implementing MOYC activities.

To provide a special spotlight on issues effecting children, four special Focus Weeks have been planned. The purpose of the Focus Weeks is to provide an opportunity to address the broad spectrum of children and family issues by highlighting specific themes.

April 2-8 Celebrating Healthy Children and Families

April 9-15 Examining The Children's Agenda and Kids Count

April 16-22 Strengthening Public and Private Sector Partnerships

April 23-29 Advocating Public Policy for Children

The Month of the Young Child Steering Committee is organizing special statewide activities and events that help promote the celebration:

The purple ribbon campaign allows people to show their commitment and support for Michigan's children by wearing or displaying a purple ribbon.

**Early Childhood Professional Recognition Day:** The special day will be celebrated on April 27. It is designed to draw attention to the needs of child care professionals as well as to thank them for their efforts.

**Kids at the Capitol Day:** On April 26 hundreds of children, their families and child advocates gather at the Capitol for activities, music and advocacy with the goal being to increase legislative awareness on children's issues. Legislators and the Governor join in the celebration and learn about the opportunities and needs that exist for children. Local celebrations are being planned in several communities to bring the message to local leaders. The theme for this year is "help make our dreams come true". Children's art work based on this theme is being collected to display and distribute to Legislators. Anyone interested in supporting this effort is encouraged to send 8-1/2 x 11 pic-

tures with the title "help make our dreams come true" to the MIAEYC Office (address below) complete with the child's name, age and child care home/center or school address.

Other activities featured in April include:

### Worthy Wage Action Day and Job Shadow Day

April 27, 1995 is the 4th Annual National Worthy Wage Day. Throughout the country, business and community leaders will be working side by side with child care teachers and directors participating in the Child Care Job Shadow Day, originated last year by the Michigan Worthy Wage Coalition (MWWC). You can participate by inviting a legislator, business owner, or parent to work in your facility. They will see that child care is NOT babysitting, that it is hard work, and that the wages are too low. The nearly 20 "shadows" who worked last year learned a great deal from the experience, and received media attention as well. If you would like to learn more about how to plan a job shadow for your facility, please call Wendy Shepard, MWWC, 1-810-642-3689.

You can make a difference in the lives of children in Michigan. The Month of the Young Child celebrates the good things we do for children and reminds us we have more work to do.

For more information about how you can become part of this year's activities, contact:

Month of the Young Child Steering Committee  
Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children  
4572 S. Hagadorn Rd., Suite 1-D, East Lansing, MI 48823  
(800) 336-6424 (517) 336-9700

Month of the Young Child™ is a trademark of the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children.







## CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Sandra Settergren, Consultant  
Livingston/Washtenaw Counties

The recent death of tennis player Vitas Gerulaitis has again drawn people's attention to the dangers posed by carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas which can be fatal. In smaller doses it can cause brain damage to children. It is difficult to recognize because its symptoms mimic those of the flu.

The most common sources of carbon monoxide poisoning are defective furnaces and flues. Carbon monoxide poisoning is preventable. The most effective method of prevention is regular inspections of all heating equipment.

Questions have now arisen about the merits of carbon monoxide detectors in day care homes and centers. When I asked Bureau of Regulatory Services Fire Safety Specialist James Perry about the need for carbon monoxide detectors, he said recent publications indicate the best way to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning is regularly maintaining your

home or facility heating system. However, the use of carbon monoxide detectors serves as a relatively inexpensive additional protection and would most importantly serve homes or centers having fuel-fired hot air furnace systems, wood stoves or fireplaces.

When purchasing these devices, be sure they are listed by a nationally recognized independent laboratory such as U.L. or Factory Mutual and installed and maintained as tested. Battery operated carbon monoxide detectors are available for around \$50 to \$70.

### MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

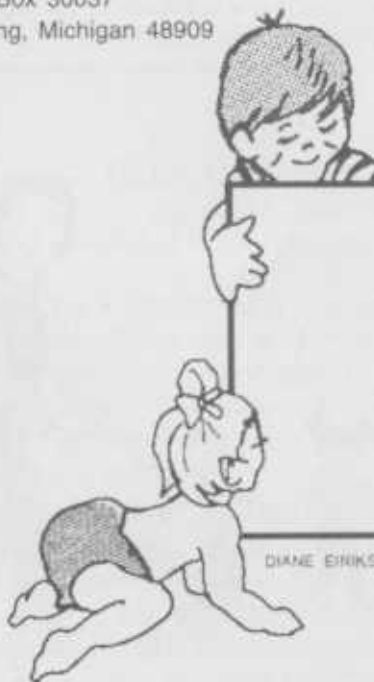
Annual Conference - March 24th & 25th, 1995  
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids

Keynote Speakers: Lillian Katz  
Charles Jackson  
Tom Hunter

For More Information Contact:  
1-800-336-6424 or  
(517) 336-9700

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
Bureau of Regulatory Services  
300 S. Capitol Avenue  
P.O. Box 30037  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Lansing, Michigan  
Permit No. 1200



DIANE ERIKS

The Department of Social Services will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, handicap, or political beliefs.

DSS Publication 37 (Rev. 9-94)



Total Number of Copies Printed: 21,000;  
Total Cost: \$4,000.00 Cost Per Copy: \$0.19